



honor your Self

HONOR

“IN THIS WORLD WE’LL ENCOUNTER DIFFERENCE. WE MUST BE RESPECTFUL AND KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT OTHERS’ BELIEFS ”



Gisele Forrest 32  
Ft. Peck Assiniboine  
Big Sky High School  
University of Montana  
Indian Education Advocate/Specialist/Tutor

Gisele Forrest has always been a struggling reader. But that did not stop her from wanting to learn. She worked hard, did well and found her interest in business at Big Sky High School in Missoula. “I had great teachers,” she said. “One who told me I could write, which was the first positive thing I’d heard about my abilities. And another who mentored me in math and accounting.” That teacher, Mr. O’Reilly, quickly became Gisele’s mentor and helped her secure a scholarship to The University of Montana, where she earned a Bachelor’s degree in Business.

“THERE IS NO MEASURE TO YOUR POTENTIAL.  
GET OUT THERE AND TRY.”

Today Gisele is an Indian Educator responsible for implementing Indian Education For All (IEFA) in Missoula. She serves over 8000 students and 1800 teachers, as well as 500 Native students in the Missoula school system. Initially the response from all sides was resistance, but Gisele sat them all down and said, “I want you to try.” She soon realized that everyone was afraid of the new program and she set about making the need for Indian Education clear. “You get to learn about the culture

of the greatest minority in Montana,” she explains about the program. “Why a student has long braids, why a co-worker is gone for a 4-day ceremony, why kids in your class tell different stories, have different religions. Montana is your environment. But there’s a big world out there. You’ll encounter diversity the rest of your life. You should start learning about others right here at home.”



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